

What is claimed is:

1. An image recording apparatus comprising:

a mounting tray for storing therein a sheet-shaped recording material to be recorded an image;

a laser exposing unit for forming an image on said recording material by laser irradiation;

a heat development unit for heat-developing the recording material on which an image is formed; and

a transporting unit for transporting said recording material drawn out from said mounting tray to said heat development unit via said laser exposing unit,

wherein both said laser exposing unit and said heat development unit are disposed at an position where is either upper or lower than said mounting tray.

2. The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a supporting unit for supporting said recording material in a predetermined attitude during the laser irradiation by said laser exposing unit.

3. The image recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said supporting unit having:

a supporting plate for supporting the recording

material by making plane-contact with a rear plane of said recording material; and

depressing means, which is located to face said supporting plate, for depressing said recording material
5 against said supporting plate.

4. The image recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein both said laser exposing unit and said heat development unit are disposed at the position where is
10 upper than said mounting tray.

5. The image recording apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said mounting tray, said laser exposing unit, and said heat development unit are disposed in this order from
15 a lower side to a upper side of the image recording apparatus.